Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2005

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Amendment

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

I. (Currently Amended) A directory gatekeeper for performing alternate routing of calls through a plurality of gateway resources, the directory gatekeeper comprising:

one or more communication devices providing access to a plurality of resource management gatekeepers, each resource management gatekeeper associated with one or more of the plurality of gateway resources;

a memory device storing a list of routes wherein each route is associated with one of the plurality of resource management gatekeepers; and

a processor operable to receive a request to initiate a call through the one or more communication devices,

wherein in response to a received request, the processor performs alternate routing by selecting a route from the list of routes using the corresponding resource management gatekeeper to determine resource availability.

- 2. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 1, wherein one of the one or more communication devices provides access to a packet-based network.
- 3. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 2, wherein the packet-based network is an Internet protocol (IP) network.
- 4. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 1, wherein the one or more communication devices provides access to the public switched telephone network (PSTN).
- 5. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 1, wherein performing alternate routing of calls includes:

identifying one or more candidate routes based on the received request; and for each of the one or more candidate routes, selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes;

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determining if the selected candidate route is available; and

if the selected candidate route is available, sending a response to the received request indicating that the candidate route is available.

6. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 5, wherein performing alternate routing of calls further includes:

if none of the candidate routes are available, sending a response to the received request indicating that the request can not be completed.

- 7. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 5, wherein selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes includes selecting the least cost route as the candidate route.
- 8. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 5, wherein selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes includes selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes at a predetermined ratio.
- 9. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 8, wherein the predetermined ratio is selected such that the likelihood of choosing each of the one or more candidate routes is substantially equal.
- 10. (Original) A method for performing alternate routing of calls in a directory gatckceper, the method comprising:

receiving a request to initiate a call;

determining a list of possible routes for terminating the call;

if a route is available, selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying one or more resource management gatekeepers;

if a route is available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating the selected route; and

if a route is not available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating that the request will not be completed.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the request includes a telephone number.

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- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the number includes a numbering plan area (NPA).
- 13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the request to initiate a call is an 11.323 admission request (ARQ) message.
- 14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each route in the list of routes is associated with a resource management gatekeeper.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying one or more resource management gatekeepers includes:

 for each route in the list of possible routes,

selecting a candidate route from the list of possible routes; and determining if the selected candidate route is available.

- 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein selecting a candidate route from list of possible routes includes selecting the least cost route as the candidate route.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein selecting a candidate route from the list of possible routes includes selecting a candidate route from the list of possible routes at a predetermined ratio.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined ratio is selected such that the likelihood of choosing each of the one or more candidate routes is substantially equal.
- 19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium including software for performing alternate routing of calls through a plurality of gateway resources, the software configuring a computer to performing perform a method, the method including:

receiving a request to initiate a call;

determining a list of possible routes for terminating the call;

if a route is available, selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying one or more resource management gatekeepers;

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if a route is available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating the selected route; and

if a route is not available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating that the request will not be completed.

- 20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the request includes a telephone number.
- 21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the number includes a numbering plan area (NPA).
- 22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the request to initiate a call is an H.323 admission request (ARQ) message.
- 23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein each route in the list of routes is associated with a resource management gatekeeper.